

[12 December, 2006]

RAJYA SABHA

planning to exempt their carriers from paying airport and navigation charges in the first five years of operation;

(b) whether it is also a fact that Government are also contemplating to extend subsidy to airlines on bidding basis to promote regional connectivity including the North East and Jammu and Kashmir; and

(c) If so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) to (c) The proposals to promote regional connectivity and regional airlines are under consideration of the Government as part of New Draft Civil Aviation Policy.

New airport at Ludhiana

2113. SHRI TARLOCHAN SINGH: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state;

(a) whether Government have given the approval of an airport in Ludhiana in Punjab;

(b) if so, the details of the project; and

(c) whether this new project will affect the working of airport at Amritsar?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) There is proposal for construction of a Civil Enclave at Halwara Defence Airfield near Ludhiana in the State of Punjab.

(b) The project, *inter-alia* includes construction of a terminal building, civil apron, strengthening of runway, installation of ground lightings, installation of communication equipments, construction of cargo and extension of runway etc.

(c) No, Sir.

Operation of Pune airport

2114. SHRI RAHUL BAJAJ: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state the Government's decision on a civilian airport at Pune and by when it would be operational?